

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBO-02 L-03 A-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SCA-01 CPR-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:EFUGIT:GJB
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEELE
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EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY
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O P 072318Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297811

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US

SUBJECT: CONGEN OFFICE SPACE IN LUANDA

REF; LISBON 8434 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED BY AN FSL IN LUANDA THAT THE GOA HAS ORDERED US TO IMMEDIATELY VACATE OUR LEASED OFFICE SPACE IN LUANDA. MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO FSL BY VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROBERTO ALMEIDA. FSL EXPLAINED THAT SPACE WAS FILLED WITH FURNITURE FROM FORMER CONGEN PROPERTIES AND, IN ADDITION, HAD SEVERAL VAULT DOORS REDUCING AVAILABLE SPACE. ALMEIDA SAID THE FURNITURE MUST BE MOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THEY WOULD BLAST AWAY THE VAULT DOOR, IF NECESSARY. AN IMMEDIATE REPLY WAS DEMANDED.

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2. BEFORE ACQUIESCING IN THIS EVICTION, WE BELIEVE ACTION

ADDRESSEES'HOST GOVERNMENTSHOULD BE INFORMED AND ASKED TO ASSIST. FYI: OUR OFFICE LEASE IS WITH SECIL INC., A DANISH FIRM WHICH OWNS THE BUILDING. THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER WAS RECENTLY TOLD BY THE ANGOLANS THAT DANISH FIRMS WOULD NOT BE NATIONALIZED. WE THEREFORE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A NATIONALIZATION BUT A SIMPLE EVICTION IN CONTRAVENTION OF OUR LEASE AN, WITHOUT PROPER NOTIFICATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED; (A) ROME: PLEASE INFORM FM OF PROBLEM AND REQUEST THEM TO ASK AMB. VECCHI TO VISIT THE ANGOLAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ASK HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION. VECCHI MAY TELL ALMEIDA THAT THE USG BELIEVES THIS ACT IS HARDLY CONDUCTIVE TO IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND THE US AND WE CONSIDER IT AN INAPPROPRIATE GESTURE COMING AFTER OUR ABSTENTION ON ANGOLA'S ADMISSION TO THE UN. IF ANGOLA INSISTS ON EVICTING US -- AND ONLY IF IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF TURNING ANGOLA AROUND -- VECCHI MAY STATE THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE COURTESY OF ADDITIONAL TIME TO ARRANGE SAFE STORAGE FOR THE US GOVERNMENT PROPERTY NOW STORED IN THE OFFICES.

(B) THE HAGUE: IN VIEW OF OUR DECISION TO ALLOW THE DUTCH TO USE A PORTION OF OUR OFFICE SPACE UNTIL WE REOPEN, SUGGEST EMBASSY CALL ON FOREIGN OFFICE AND EXPLAIN THESE DEVELOPMENTS. PLEASE ASK THE FM IF IT WOULD CONSIDER INTERVENING ON OUR BEHALF WITH THE GOA, INFORMING THEM OF OUR JOINT AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THEM TO USE OUR SPACE, AND ASKING THEM TO RECONSIDER.

(C) COPENHAGEN:SINCE SPACE WE RENT OWNED BY DANISH FIRM, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE EMBASSY TO CALL ON AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND REVIEW THE PROBLEM WITH THEM. WE WOULD HOPE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD INDICATE CONCERN TO THE GOA OVER THEIR EFFORTS TO EXERT CONTROL OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNED BY A DANISH ENTITY AND IN CONTRAVENTION OF A VALID LEASE BETWEEN THAT ENTITY AND THE USG. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, LEASED BUILDINGS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE297811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EFUGIT:GJB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760452-1087
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761264/aaaacdro.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LISBON 8434
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGEN OFFICE SPACE IN LUANDA
TAGS: PFOR, ABLD, AO, US
To: ROME THE HAGUE COPENHAGEN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006